

thirty-five years. As these programs have evolved, there has been a continuing need to address the specific concerns of rural and inner-city communities that experience shortages of health professionals and a lack of primary care providers. This reauthorization will allow the Title VII and VIII programs to set improved goals and outcomes measures and it also provides them with greater flexibility in establishing priorities to target emerging workforce issues.

In my own State of Vermont, the students of the University of Vermont's College of Medicine have benefited from a number of these programs and scholarships, including those relating to family medicine, professional nurse and nurse practitioner training.

The newest Title VII program in Vermont is the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) which opened its first site in April 1997 in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. The AHEC will decentralize health professions education by having portions of the training provided in primary medical personnel shortage areas and by improving the coordination and use of existing health resources. Over the next two years, two additional sites are planned in other underserved areas of the state. These efforts have contributed to making Vermont a better place to obtain health care services and improved the quality of life for its residents.

Again, I want to thank Senator FRIST and his excellent staff for their dedication and hard work in drafting the "Health Professions Education Partnership Act of 1998." Enactment of this legislation will improve health professions training programs across America and, as the Chair of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, I intend to make its passage one of our highest priorities.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to join Senators FRIST and KENNEDY and JEFFORDS in the introduction of legislation to reauthorize Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act. I am pleased to be part of this bipartisan effort to reauthorize the programs that help shape the pool of qualified health care professionals for the United States.

Titles VII and VIII were originally enacted to address a critical health manpower shortage and successfully served to increase the overall supply of providers. The mission of Title VII and VIII has evolved as the delivery system and needs of the population have shifted. Today, the focus of the various programs rests within three main areas. The programs are aimed to solve the shortages in rural and inner city communities. They strive to address the shortage of primary care providers and finally must correct the disparity in minority representation in the health professions. Indeed, the various programs in this legislation serve to provide a base for strengthening the health resources for this country.

In my home state of New Mexico, 28 out of 33 counties are designated as

health professional shortage areas by the federal government. I am acutely aware of how a maldistribution of health care providers can impact our citizens. Geographic access to the appropriate health care provider is an important factor in our debates on the health care system. Titles VII and VIII are noteworthy avenues to address the needs in this area. Studies have shown that if we recruit individuals from the shortage area, the likelihood is much greater that they will return to practice in the area. Additionally, if clinical training is community based in rural and underserved areas, the likelihood is also increased that upon graduation, the provider will serve in the locality in which they trained.

Equally important for a state such as mine is the commitment to address the persistent and unmet health care need along the border between the United States and Mexico. The health education and training centers in the legislation address the community health needs and the training and educational needs of health professionals serving in these areas. The legislation also has the capacity to expand and improve the public health workforce which is a major component of addressing border health concerns.

Mr. President, this legislation restructures the act to address the health workforce needs of our nation in a flexible, but more accountable manner. We have provided for data collection and analysis of the health workforce so that decision making for the future can be well founded and be an accurate reflection of societal needs. Additionally, this legislation affords us the opportunity to provide education and training that reflect changes in an evolving health care system. As managed care and other forces shift the delivery system from inpatient hospital care to outpatient facilities, it is necessary to respond to the shifts that this causes in the workforce. To this end, the legislation addresses the curriculum development in the areas of health promotion and disease prevention as well as long term care, home health and hospice.

As the demographics of our population shift to an older population, we must ensure we have qualified individuals to treat the specific nature of chronic diseases associated with geriatrics. As we deal with an aging population, establishing interdisciplinary training programs that promote the role of nutritionists, physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists in geriatrics are critical. The legislation provides an avenue to address these necessary components.

Finally, the reauthorization provides a framework to better monitor the outcomes of our efforts. It continues to afford us the opportunity to assure an appropriate number and mix of health professionals for the health needs of the country. It strengthens our commitment to address the supply, dis-

tribution, and minority representation of health professionals through both Native American and Hispanic centers of excellence. I have been committed to seeing the needs of these two populations addressed. I commend Senators FRIST and KENNEDY for their hard work and the work of their staff to address the various concerns raised during our hearings on this important issue. I appreciate the work done by the Hispanic caucus in the House and by the minority health profession schools as well.

Mr. President, in closing I want to thank Senators FRIST and KENNEDY and JEFFORDS for their determination to address the need to reauthorize Title VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act. I appreciate that they have worked closely with our colleagues in the House to develop companion legislation. I am committed to working with my colleagues toward expeditious consideration and passage of this bill.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 10

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 10, a bill to reduce violent juvenile crime, promote accountability by juvenile criminals, punish and deter violent gang crime, and for other purposes.

S. 230

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 230, a bill to amend section 1951 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the Hobbs Act), and for other purposes.

S. 1194

At the request of Mr. HATCH, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1194, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the right of medicare beneficiaries to enter into private contracts with physicians and other health care professionals for the provision of health services for which no payment is sought under the medicare program.

S. 1215

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1215, a bill to prohibit spending Federal education funds on national testing.

S. 1325

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1325, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Technology Administration of the Department of Commerce for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes.

S. 1421

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mr. D'AMATO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1421, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional support for and to expand clinical research programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1464

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1464, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the research credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1504

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1504, a bill to adjust the immigration status of certain Haitian nationals who were provided refuge in the United States.

S. 1563

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. KEMPTHORNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1563, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a 24-month pilot program permitting certain aliens to be admitted into the United States to provide temporary or seasonal agricultural services pursuant to a labor condition attestation.

S. 1605

At the request of Mr. WARNER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1605, a bill to establish a matching grant program to help States, units of local government, and Indian tribes to purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers.

S. 1621

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1621, a bill to provide that certain Federal property shall be made available to States for State use before being made available to other entities, and for other purposes.

S. 1673

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON), and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1673, a bill to terminate the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 1682

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1682, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal joint and several liability of spouses on joint returns of Federal income tax, and for other purposes.

S. 1692

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1692, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide software trade secrets protection.

S. 1723

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1723, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to assist the United States to remain competitive by increasing the access of the United States firms and institutions of higher education to skilled personnel and by expanding educational and training opportunities for American students and workers.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. MACK, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1737, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a uniform application of the confidentiality privilege to taxpayer communications with federally authorized practitioners.

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 3, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to voluntary school prayer.

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 73

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 73, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the European Union is unfairly restricting the importation of United States agriculture products and the elimination of such restrictions should be a top priority in trade negotiations with the European Union.

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 78

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 78, a concurrent resolution relating to the indictment and prosecution of Saddam Hussein for war crimes and other crimes against humanity.

At the request of Mr. KERRY, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 78, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 78, *supra*.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 99

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 99, a resolution to encourage consumers to consult with their pharmacists in connection with the purchase and use of over-the-counter drug products.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 187

At the request of Mr. MACK, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 187, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China.

SENATE RESOLUTION 189

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 189, a resolution honoring the 150th anniversary of the United States Women's Rights Movement that was initiated by the 1848 Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York, and calling for a national celebration of women's rights in 1998.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1375

At the request of Mr. LEVIN the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1375 proposed to S. 1173, a bill to authorize funds for construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1726

At the request of Mr. WARNER his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1726 proposed to S. 1173, a bill to authorize funds for construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1906

At the request of Mr. MACK the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1906 proposed to S. 1173, a bill to authorize funds for construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE INTERMODAL SURFACE  
TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY  
ACT OF 1997THURMOND (AND OTHERS)  
AMENDMENT NO. 1987

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. THURMOND (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MACK, and Mr. BUMPERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to amendment No. 1676 proposed by Mr. CHAFFEE to the bill (S. 1173) to authorize funds for construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

(d) CONTINUATION OF OPERATING ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN LARGER URBANIZED AREAS.—

(1) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the period described in paragraph (2), the Secretary of Transportation may continue to provide assistance under section 5307 of title 49, United States Code, to finance the operating costs of equipment and facilities for use in mass transportation in any urbanized area (as that term is defined in section 5302 of title 49, United States Code) with a population of not fewer than 200,000, if the Secretary determines that—